Navyug Schools

1799. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new Navyug Schools in New Delhi opened during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) whether basic facilities in these schools have not been provided so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in some schools new admitted children have been asked to attend the school later due to non-availability of the rooms;

(e) if so, whether such conditions prevail in Navyug School, Mandir Marg as well;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Three Navyug Schools were opened by the Navyug School Educational Society during the last three years, one each at Pataudi House, Mandir Marg and Tilak Marg.

(b) While all basic facilities in these schools have been provided, the play-ground is common for Navyug Schools and the adjoining NDMC schools.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

(d) to (g) New Delhi Municipal Council has intimated that no such case has come to their notice. In Navyug School, Mandir Marg some renovation/partition work has now been completed.

Free Education in Navyug Schools

1800. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide free education including books, dress etc. to the children belonging to income below Rs. 50,000 per annum in NDMC Navyug Schools in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these facilities have not been provided in these schools particularly in Tilak Marg Navyug School since their inception;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided to those children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. With regard to Navyug School, Tilak Marg, the New Delhi Municipal Council has informed that for supply of the uniforms, order has already been placed and the same shall be supplied very shortly.

Utilisation of Malda and Balurghat Airfield

1801. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry are aware of the fact that Malda and Balurghat (West Bengal) Airfield remained unutilised for last eight years for non-operation of Vayudoot flights and causing hardship;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct an air strip at newly formed district headquarter Raiganj of Uttar Dinajpur in North Bengal and plan for a Calcutta-Malda-Raiganj, Purnea (Bihar)-Coochbehar Flight which is commercially viable every day; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India has at present, no plans to construct an airstrip in Raiganj in West Bengal due to financial constraints. Moreover, no airline has shown interest in operating services on these routes.

[Translation]

National Highways Act

1802. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend National Highways Act for providing fresh incentives for road sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals under consideration/finalised and present status of the proposal; and

(c) the details of plans to provide warehousing and other facilities as integral part of highways project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. It is proposed to amend the National Highways Act, 1956 to include land for housing and other development activities, which are an intergral part of the highway project, as land required for highway development and treat such acquisition as land required for public purpose. A Bill to be introduced in Parliament in this regard is, accordingly, under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Central Government has already permitted the State Governments for utilisation of space beneath the road-over-bridges or fly-overs on National Highways for warehousing, on an yearly licence fee.